



BELT AND ROAD

China implements \$10b worth of infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, says ambassador

China has begun implementing \$10 billion worth of infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, said Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Zuo here on March 21 at his first press conference since taking office.

“Under the joint efforts of the two governments and companies from both countries, a group of cooperation projects are being implemented, including the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone, Payra Power Plant, the 8th China Bangladesh Friendship Bridge, and the International Exhibition Center, with a

total investment of over \$10 billion,” said the ambassador.

These projects will improve infrastructure, the trade and investment environment, and people’s livelihood, and play a positive role in the economic and social development of Bangladesh, Zhang added.

“China welcomes all countries to take a fast ride on our economic development, as well as advantageous, distinctive, and competitive goods and services to enter the huge market in China,” Zhang said, noting that

China welcomes Bangladesh to further increase its participation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

“We welcome Bangladeshi enterprises to take advantages of all platforms, such as China-South Asia Expo, the China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) and China International Import Expo to promote trade with China. We will also encourage more capable enterprises to invest in Bangladesh, and help upgrade the manufacturing of Bangladesh,” Zhang said.

“It is beneficial not only for decreasing the trade deficit but also for the balance of economic and trade cooperation as a whole,” he said.

He also said China has implemented a flexible, practical visa policy for Bangladeshi citizens who want to go to China for the purposes of business and cultural exchange.

“In 2017, the (Chinese) embassy issued nearly fifty thousand visas, an increase of 22 percent on a year-on-year basis, to meet the demand of Bangladeshi side,” Zhang said.(Xinhua)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yunnan sets up first marathon club

BY YUE RANRAN

The first professional marathon club in Yunnan Province was set up in Kunming, capital city of the province the other day.

The club, Yunnan Phicomm Marathon Club, will provide outstanding professional marathoners with long-term funding and technical support, scientific and medical services and overseas training opportunities. It will also help athletes to compete in events at home and abroad.

Zhang Guowei, a Chinese long-distance runner and head coach of the Yunnan provincial track and field team, is in charge of the running club, which has already brought together a number of top domestic marathoners.

Yunnan starts “genetic engineering” of rare metals

BY YUE RANRAN

Yunnan Province recently announced that it will make use of its natural resources and industrial sector to implement a programme for the “genetic engineering” of rare and precious metals.

The province will build a national integrated innovation centre for the “genetic engineering of rare and precious metals.” It will establish an industrial base for researching rare and precious metals and new materials such as tin, indium, titanium, germanium, aluminium and liquid metals. It will also build a number of industrial supply chains and set up an authoritative domestic database of rare and precious metals. Additionally, the province will create an integrated platform for high-throughput calculation, preparation, characterization, service and evaluation for this new industry.(Xinhua)

4,667 hectares of flowers planted in south Yunnan's Mile

BY HAN CHENGYUAN

With favorable climate, southeast Yunnan’s Mile City has developed the high-quality and efficient agriculture in recent years, including the flower planting. Based on the mode of “Company+Base+Farmer” and transfer of land rights, local floral industry has achieved industrialized operation.

Now, the flower plantation area in Mile is about 4,667 hectares and the value of annual production reaches four billion yuan. In addition, the flowers are sold both at home and abroad. So, next time when you buy a bunch of flowers, it may be from Mile.



Enjoy the tea of spring in Yunnan

China has glamorous tea culture. For many Chinese, a cup of tea not only relieves thirst, but also contains wisdom. When the tea-picking season comes in spring, taking a cup of spring tea is refreshing for many people. Yunnan is a famous tea-producing province in China and is regarded as the hometown of Pu’er and Dianhong tea. Here, dressed in their traditional costumes, two women from Yi ethnic group are picking spring tea in southwest Yunnan’s Nanjian County.

Photo by Yang Zheng

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

New jobs for villagers to shake off poverty

BY GUO XING

“Tomorrow you are to start work in the park. Put on your uniforms and report on time. If you want to sell things, you need to register in advance,” the loudspeaker in my home village explained. This year, the first phase of the Prehistoric Life and Culture Expo Garden in the village was completed. In order to take advantage of the Spring Festival holiday and attract visitors, the park held lantern shows, theatrical performances, concerts and other events during the first lunar month of the new year. As you can imagine, there was a lot of work to do.

My hometown is in Yushe

County, north China’s Shanxi Province. In the past, winter was a slow season. Having finished a season’s work in the fields or on construction sites, many villagers had nothing to do but play mah-jong to idle away their time.

But starting from last year, work began on the Prehistoric Life and Culture Expo Garden in my hometown. As construction progressed, businesses associated with breeding, sightseeing, restaurants and other related ventures sprung up one after another around the reservoir in the village. The beach beside the river, where the project is located, was not farmable because of the reservoir, and because of that was once dismissed as useless by locals. Now

money grows out of this “promised land”.

Managing the Expo Garden, setting up stalls, running restaurants, planting bamboo and willows, weaving baskets and raising ducks – these activities help keep the villagers busy now. Many of them have decided not to leave to find work in bigger cities. The villagers admire the lanterns, go roller-skating and watch local operas in their spare time. Playing mah-jong is no longer popular, locals are now opening their eyes to new ways of exploration and learning. They are already on a journey to shake off poverty! (Excerpted from the website of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline and Inspection) .

FOREIGNERS IN YUNNAN

Ukrainian girl Kseniia: Yunnan culture is part of my life

BY LIU ZIYU

Having lived in Yunnan for three years, Kirianaki Kseniia from Ukraine describes herself as an authentic Yunnan girl, despite not eating chili pepper. For her, the ethnic culture in Yunnan has become a part of her life.

Kirianaki Kseniia is a graduate student majoring in tourism management in the Southwest Forestry University in Kunming, capital city of Yunnan Province. She did not know much about Yunnan when she first came to the province. But as she stays longer, she has got a better understanding of the province. “I think there is an incompatible advantage in studying tourism in Yunnan.” Through her study, Kseniia found that Yunnan is abundant in both natural and cultural resources.

Thanks to the opportunities of joining some TV shows, Kseniia visited many

places in Yunnan. She was deeply impressed by the beautiful landscapes and hospitable villagers in Puzhehei, southeast Yunnan’s Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture. And the local cuisines amazed her as well. When she visited Puzhehei, it was the blooming season of lotus flowers and local people picked lotus flowers, leaves, seeds and stems to cook all-lotus feast. “I never tried lotus before, so it was surprising to see that 90 percent of the dishes were made of lotus. It was a feast for eyes and mouth,” Kseniia said.

During her trips to west Yunnan’s Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture and south Yunnan’s Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, she learned paper cutting and elephant-foot drum dance from the locals. And she was more than happy when she was invited to be a bridesmaid in an ethnic wedding ceremony. “I like the clothes of the Dai people. And the wedding gave me a deeper understand-



Kseniia(Right) is dressed in Yunnan ethnic costumes. Online Photo

ing of their customs,” she said.

“Now, Yunnan ethnic culture is not only my research interest, but also a very important part of my life,” Kseniia said that as a graduate student majoring in tourism, she hopes to promote local ethnic culture of Yunnan.

VOICE

LMC makes member states feel like masters: Cambodian FM

BY MAO PENGFEI

“The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Mechanism has progressed rapidly from a period of cultivation to its current phase of growth. We are gradually expanding the scope of cooperation to address the needs of Lancang-Mekong states in terms of continuous development. We are also working together to build the Lancang-Mekong Economic Development Belt,” said H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Cambodian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, during a recent interview concerning the LMC Mechanism.

The LMC is a new type of cooperative sub-regional platform jointly undertaken and established by China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. In January 2018, the Second LMC Leaders’ Meeting was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. And the leaders determined every week in which there is a March 23(the day of the first LMC Leaders’ Meeting), to be the Lancang-Mekong Week. During the Lancang-Mekong Week, various exchanges will be held. Last week marked the first Lancang-Mekong Week since the establishment of the LMC Mechanism.

H.E. Prak Sokhonn said that the LMC Mechanism is about both “peace

and development.” The LMC will focus on areas such as connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, shared water resources, agriculture and poverty alleviation. It will help narrow the development gap among the countries of the Mekong River Basin, while also accelerating progress surrounding the ASEAN Economic Community by promoting sustainable development in the sub-region.

The First LMC Leaders’ Meeting identified 45 early harvest projects. All of them are open multilateral cooperative projects proposed and implemented by member states. Speaking of the changes that the LMC has brought to Cambodia, H.E. Prak Sokhonn said that 16 Cambodian projects identified so far will bring tremendous benefits to the Cambodian people in terms of wellbeing, education, health and tourism.

“As a project-driven initiative mechanism, the LMC makes all member states feel that they are masters,” Prak Sokhonn said. “Compared with other mechanisms, the LMC is a new breed. We have achieved a lot of specific results driven by political influence. The strong leadership and political support of the leaders of these six countries is truly an advantage.” (Translated from Xinhua)

EXCHANGE

Yoga and Bollywood movies help India polish its image in China



In the China-India Yoga College at Yunnan Minzu University, Indian yoga master is teaching students how to practice yoga. Photo by Li Qing

BY LIU XIN

As a ticket seller in a cinema in Beijing’s Haidian district, Ying had a busy weekend tending to swarms of moviegoers filling the theater to watch the latest imported Indian movie, *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*.

This is the most recent Indian film to enter the Chinese market and has shown strong growth at the local box office, with 55 million yuan (\$8.67 million) in revenue within 72 hours after its Friday debut.

Indeed, Chinese audiences have in just the past few years seen more Bollywood films than ever before in the history of cinema in China. But movies are not the only Indian entertainment being gobbled up by Chinese consumers.

Yoga clubs have, over the past two years, been popping up in Chinese cities like mushrooms after a rainy day as India continues to heavily promote the ancient art at a global level. Following Indian Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi’s visit to China in May of 2015, the Chinese and Indian governments have also been cooperating on joint Yoga-Taichi events.

It even has entered the public school system in some cities across China. For example, a primary school in Shenyang, Northeast China’s Liaoning Province, has included yoga in their morning exercise routines.

The success of Indian movies in China could be attributed to its mature business model. The latest popular Indian movies reduced their traditional dancing and singing numbers, focusing more on discussing social ills—such as discrimination against women and the wealth gap—but in an upbeat, joyous way.

India has done better work in stretching its soft power, which is partly because of their pride in their culture and their efforts in protecting their traditions,” Hu Zhiyong, a research fellow at the Institute of International Relations of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times. (Global Times)

COOPERATION

China-Myanmar gas power plant put into operation

BY ZHUANG BEINING

A completion ceremony for the Thaketa gas-fired combined cycle power plant, a joint venture built by Myanmar and China’s Union Resources and Engineering Co Ltd (a subsidiary of Yunnan Energy Investment Co Ltd), was held recently. The power generation project has an installed capacity of 106 megawatts, and has begun to supply electricity to local users.

Yangon is the economic centre and largest city in Myanmar. Power failures

often hit the city because electricity is in short supply. The power plant is ten kilometres away from downtown Yangon, and all its generators went into operation February 28.

Yunnan Energy Investment Co Ltd is currently working with the Myanmar government and its partners to conduct in-depth studies on the liquid natural gas fuel system solutions required for the second phase of the power plant. The involved parties hope to work out a long-term, reliable, and secure holistic power supply solution for Yangon. (Xinhua)